

# ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

## 2016-2017 Season

Alex Pauk, Founding Music Director & Conductor

Season Sponsor

BMO  Financial Group



Sunday October 23, 2016

**Power On**



Sunday February 12, 2017

**Accelerando**



Sunday November 20, 2016

**m'M**



Sunday April 2, 2017

**Overdrive**

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**2016–2017 SEASON AT A GLANCE**  
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**Sunday October 23, 2016**

# **Power On**

**A Tribute to R. Murray Schafer**

**R. Murray Schafer**

*Scorpius*

*Concerto for Flute and Orchestra*

*Adieu Robert Schumann* for voice and orchestra

**Andrew Norman**

*Switch* for solo percussion and orchestra\*

**Alex Pauk** – conductor

**Krisztina Szabó** – mezzo-soprano

**Robert Aitken** – flute

**Ryan Scott** – percussion



**Sunday November 20, 2016**

# **m'M**

**George Crumb**

*A Haunted Landscape\**

**Marc-André Dalbavie**

*Concerto for Cello and Orchestra\**

**Zosha Di Castri**

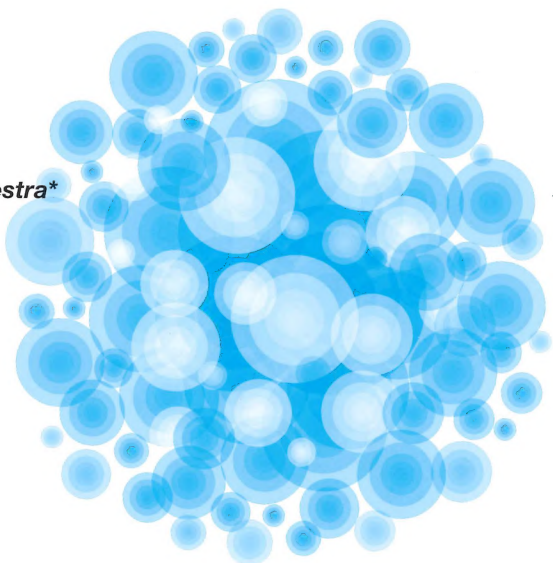
*Alba*

**Philippe Leroux**

*m'M*

**Alex Pauk** – conductor

**Joseph Johnson** – cello



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**Sunday February 12, 2017**

# Accelerando

**José Evangelista**  
*Accelerando*

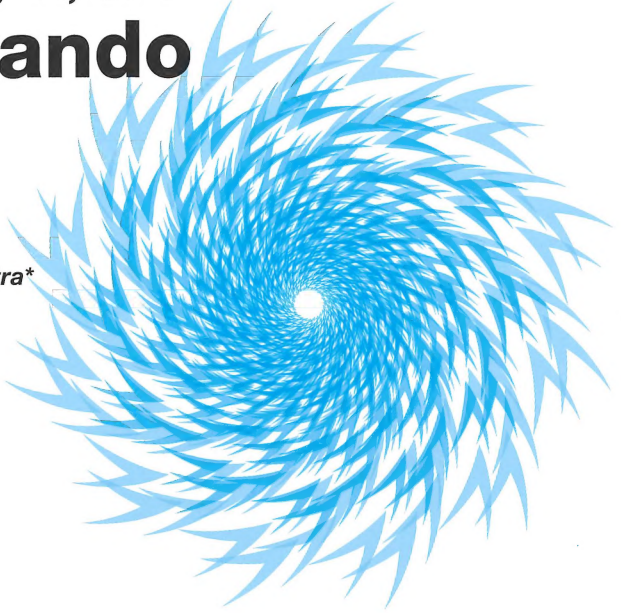
**Analia Lugdar**  
*New Work\*\**

**Conlon Nancarrow**  
*Piece #2 for Small Orchestra\**

**John Rea**  
*New Work\*\**

**Adam Scime**  
*New Work\*\**

**Alex Pauk** – conductor



**Sunday April 2, 2017**

# Overdrive

**Thomas Adès**  
*Violin Concerto – Concentric Paths\**

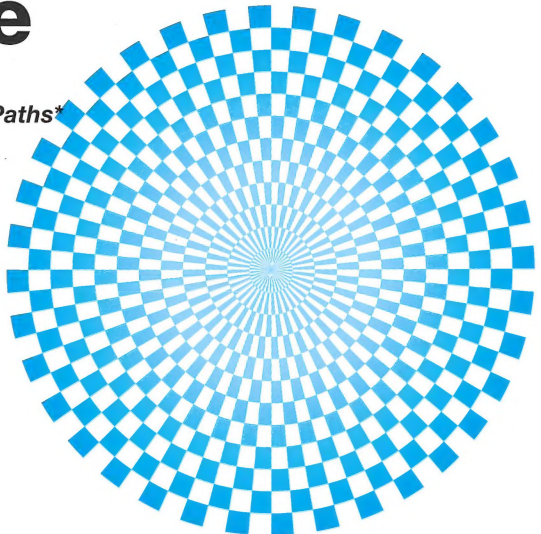
**Arthur Honegger**  
*Pacific 231\**

**Alexander Mosolov**  
*The Iron Foundry*

**John Adams**  
*Short Ride in a Fast Machine*

**Chris Paul Harman**  
*Blur*

**Alex Pauk** – conductor  
**Véronique Mathieu** – violin



\*Canadian Premiere \*\* World Premiere



## MUSIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This season we celebrate Canada's most revered composer and feature music by outstanding foreign composers, pieces of importance from the 1920s, previous Esprit commissions and, as always, newly commissioned works.

We'll pay tribute to Murray Schafer in our performance of his *Adieu Robert Schumann*, an evocative monodrama with acclaimed mezzo-soprano Krisztina Szabó singing the part of Schumann's wife Clara. Flutist Robert Aitken performs Murray's flute concerto (one of the finest ever) with Esprit for the fifth time. *Scorpius*, commissioned by Esprit and performed by us many times, will launch the season with great vibrancy.



Photo by Bo Huang

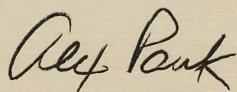
In *Switch*, solo percussionist Ryan Scott helps us satisfy the desire of many audience members, enthralled with Andrew Norman's *Play* last season, to hear yet another mind-blowing piece from this young American star.

George Crumb, known for exquisite instrumental colours in his chamber music, is less well-known for his orchestral works thus making our performance of *A Haunted Landscape* a rare listening opportunity. Similarly, Conlon Nancarrow's gem for small orchestra shows an alternate aspect of a composer most famous for his complex player piano works. The recent works by Leroux, Dalbavie, Di Castri, and Adès are already important in today's musical spectrum.

Esprit's commitment to commissioning and premiering new works comes into full force on our February concert.

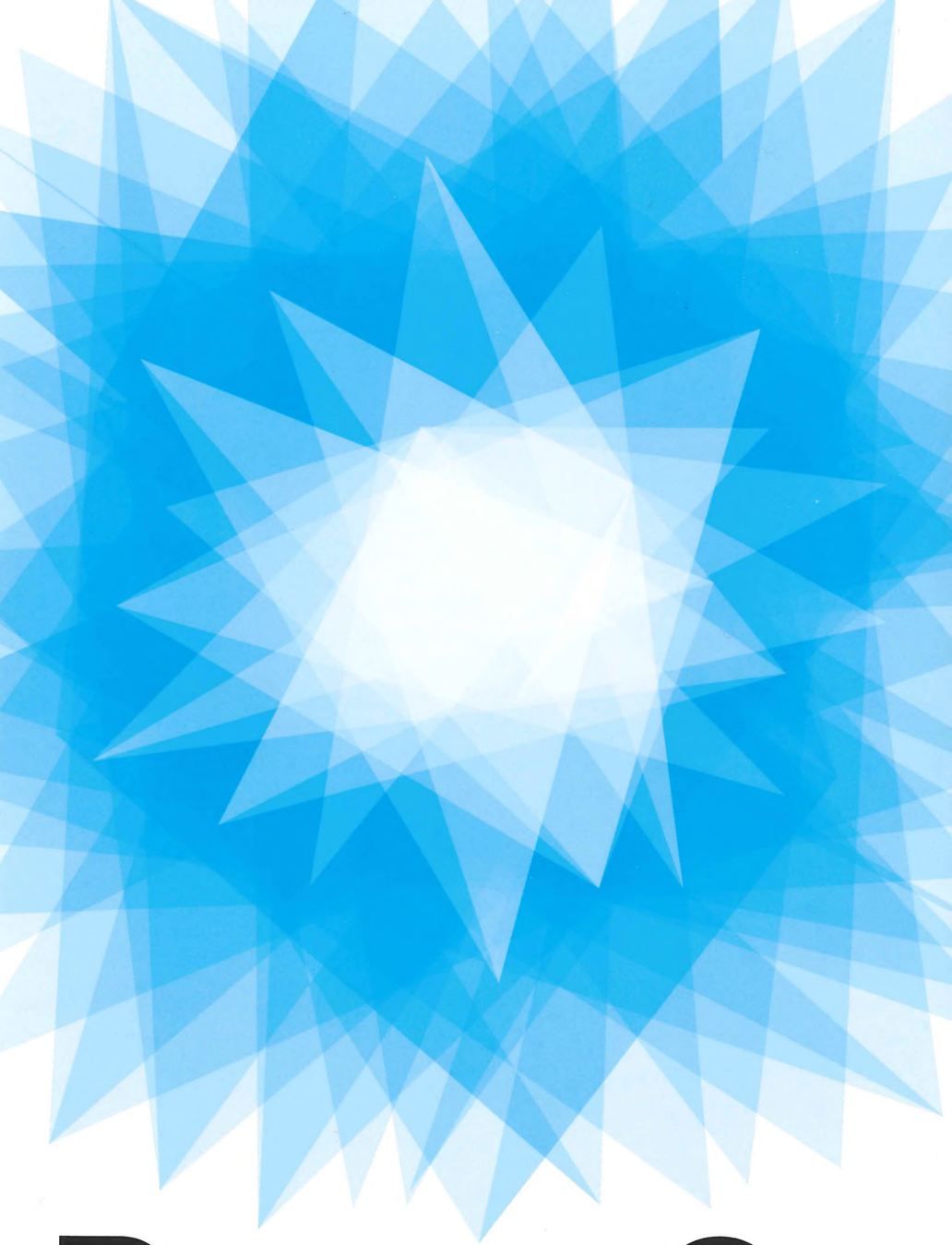
Esprit aims to provide you with exciting, satisfying and meaningful concert experiences. Welcome to Esprit's 34th season in the exploration and evolution of emotionally, intellectually and spiritually stimulating musical expression.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alex Pauk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alex" and last name "Pauk" clearly distinguishable.

Alex Pauk, C.M.  
Music Director





# **Power On**

**A Tribute to R. Murray Schafer**

# Sunday October 23 2016

8:00pm Concert  
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat  
Koerner Hall

ORDER NOW!  
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Koerner Hall Box Office  
416 408 0208  
Mon-Fri 10am – 6pm  
Saturday 12pm – 6pm

**R. Murray Schafer** (Canada)

***Scorpius*** (1990)

***Concerto for Flute and Orchestra*** (1984)

***Adieu Robert Schumann*** for voice and orchestra (1976)

**Andrew Norman** (U.S.A.)

***Switch*** for solo percussion and orchestra\* (2015)

**Alex Pauk** – conductor

**Krisztina Szabó** – mezzo-soprano

**Robert Aitken** – flute

**Ryan Scott** – percussion

\*Canadian Premiere

Esprit's celebration of Murray Schafer is generously supported by  
**The Koerner Foundation.**

Concert Sponsor: **HJF** HAL JACKMAN  
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The sheer excitement of one of the greatest flute concertos ever, the powerful drama of texts from Clara Schumann's diaries blended with fragments of Robert's music to portray his progressive descent into madness during his last years, and the mischievous humour of *Scorpius* ("Am I trying to sting someone with 'my' Scorpius? I'll let the listener decide"), reveal an impressive array of Schafer's diverse compositional skills. The new mythologies, fantasy characters, and mysterious realms of computer games influence the witty, energetic juxtapositions of Norman's *Switch*.

# Sunday November 20 2016

8:00pm Concert  
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat  
Koerner Hall

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416 408 0208  
Mon-Fri 10am – 6pm  
Saturday 12pm – 6pm

**George Crumb** (U.S.A.)  
*A Haunted Landscape*\* (1984)

**Marc-André Dalbavie** (France)  
*Concerto for Cello and Orchestra*\* (2013)

**Zosha Di Castri** (Canada)  
*Alba* (2011)

**Philippe Leroux** (Canada/France)  
*m'M* (2003)

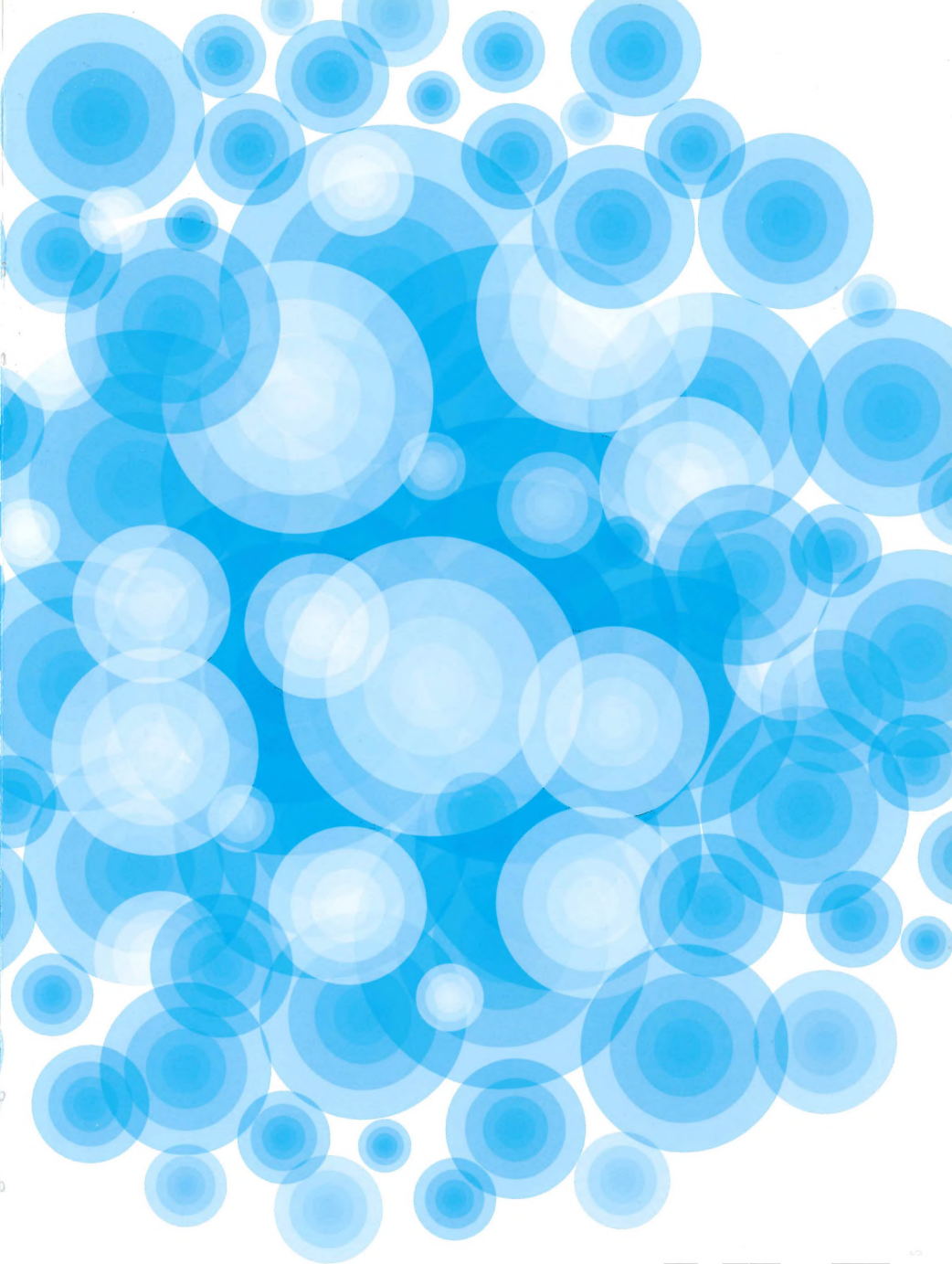
**Alex Pauk** – conductor  
**Joseph Johnson** – cello

\*Canadian Premiere

“M” represents the phonetic sense of “love” in the French language, and in Leroux’s work, a concerto grosso, “m” represents the little orchestra and “M” the big orchestra. *Alba* reflects dawn in winter on the prairies of Northern Alberta, calling up “the majestic beauty in this quilted silence and stunning flatness”. Dalbavie’s cello concerto demands a wide range of virtuosic playing and confirms this composer’s musical genius. Crumb’s work creates almost ritualistic sonic impressions expressing that certain places on Earth “are imbued with an aura of mystery” and of ancient histories that still penetrate contemporary consciousness.

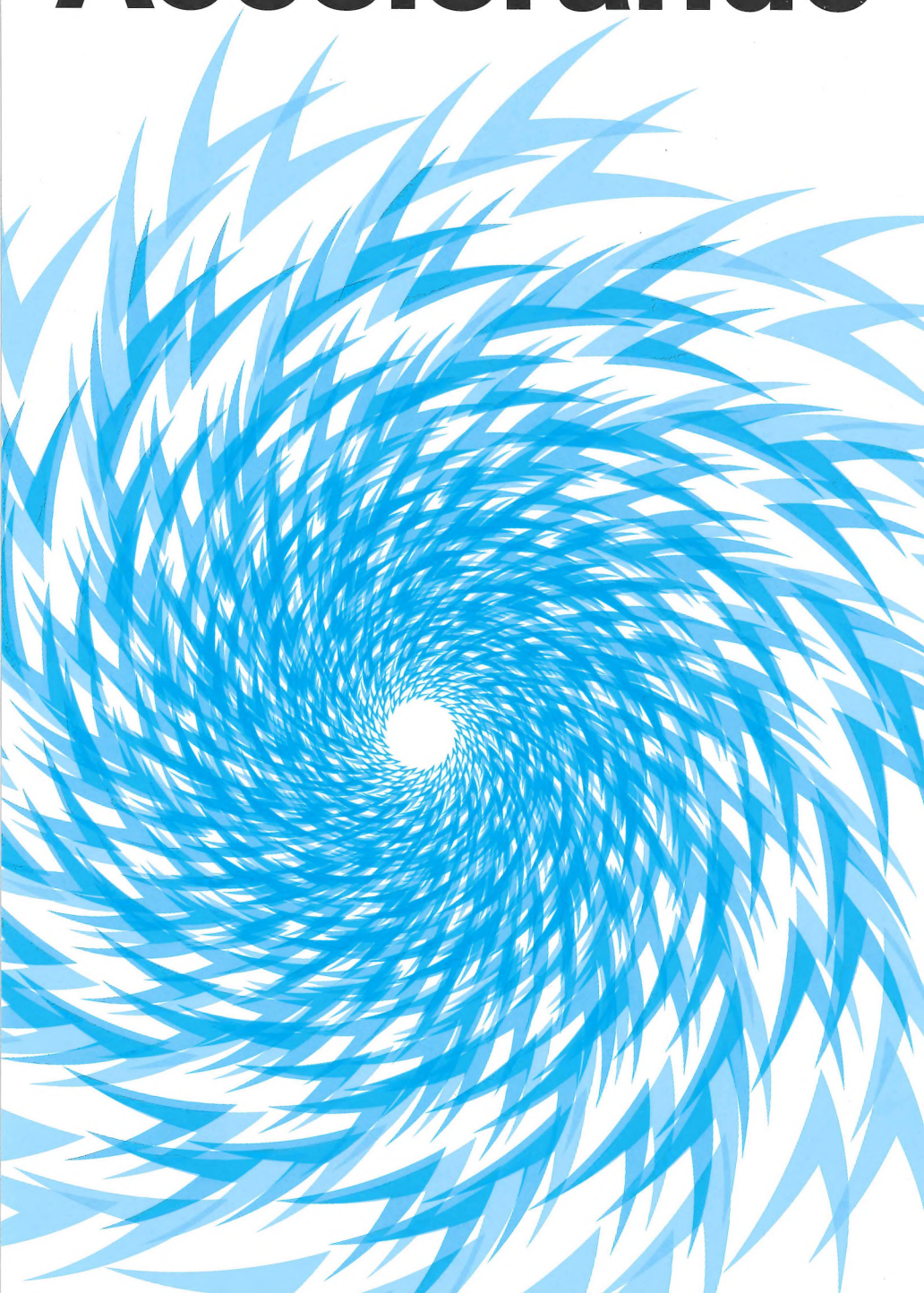






**m'M**

# Accelerando



# Sunday February 12 2017

8:00pm Concert  
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat  
Koerner Hall

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416 408 0208  
Mon-Fri 10am – 6pm  
Saturday 12pm – 6pm

**José Evangelista** (Canada)  
*Accelerando* (2016)

**Analia Llugdar** (Canada)  
New Work\*\* (2017)

**Conlon Nancarrow** (U.S.A./Mexico)  
*Piece #2 for Small Orchestra\** (1985)

**John Rea** (Canada)  
New Work\*\*\* (2017)

**Adam Scime** (Canada)  
New Work\*\* (2017)

**Alex Pauk** – conductor

\* Canadian Premiere

\*\* World Premiere

Commissioned with generous support from The Koerner Foundation

\*\*\* World Premiere

Commissioned in collaboration with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra

Concert Sponsor:

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Adventure and discovery come with premiering new works. Along with the new pieces by Llugdar, Scime, and Rea, Evangelista's *Accelerando*, being premiered by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra in November 2016, is also new. Nancarrow, famous for complex player piano pieces not playable by humans, is represented by an orchestral gem that can be performed by Esprit's excellent musicians. Llugdar, composing as though she is inside sound, aims at expression through complex textures, many contrasts and extremes in the same piece. Scime's piece is a new panel of a triptyque for Esprit.



# Sunday April 2 2017

8:00pm Concert  
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat  
Koerner Hall

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Koerner Hall Box Office  
416 408 0208  
Mon-Fri 10am – 6pm  
Saturday 12pm – 6pm

**Thomas Adès** (England)  
*Violin Concerto – Concentric Paths\** (2005)

**Arthur Honegger** (Switzerland)  
*Pacific 231\** (1926)

**Alexander Mosolov** (Russia)  
*The Iron Foundry* (1923)

**John Adams** (U.S.A.)  
*Short Ride in a Fast Machine* (1986)

**Chris Paul Harman** (Canada)  
*Blur* (1997)

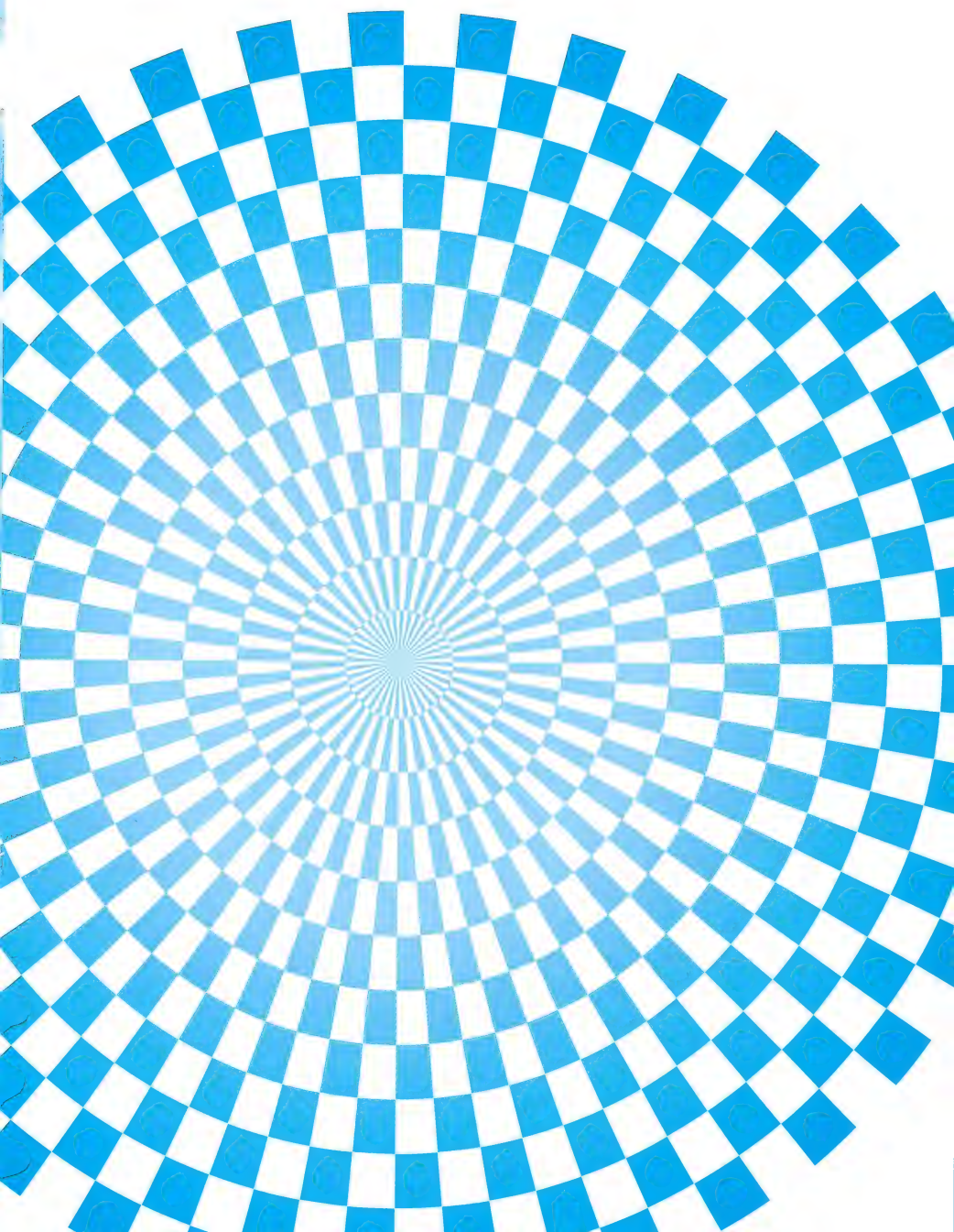
**Alex Pauk** – conductor  
**Véronique Mathieu** – violin

\*Canadian Premiere

*The Iron Foundry* and *Pacific 231* are imaginative musical depictions of forces at the height of the industrial revolution that suggest both organic and mechanical extensions of human feelings. The sonic materials of Adès' concerto are sheets of sound in differing orbits, overlapping, sometimes clashing circular forms, and playful, easeful cycles in harmony at different rates. Adams' *Short Ride* elevates the level of excitement and Harman pushes things into overdrive.



# Overdrive



## ENHANCE YOUR CONCERT EXPERIENCE

Looking for an opportunity to engage with the composers and soloists featured in our concerts?

Esprit hosts Pre-Concert Chats in Koerner Hall immediately before every concert. Each discussion is hosted by Juno Award-winning Canadian composer Alexina Louie. Previous guests have included Andrew Norman, R. Murray Schafer, Adam Scime, Zosha Di Castri, and guest artists who have performed as soloists in Esprit's concerts.

All Pre-Concert Chats are free with your ticket purchase and start at 7:15pm – 45 minutes before showtime.





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A wide-angle photograph of a large orchestra performing on a stage in a concert hall. The orchestra members are seated in rows, facing away from the camera towards the audience. They are holding various instruments, including brass and woodwinds. The stage is lit with warm, yellow lights. The audience is seated in a large, tiered hall, filling the upper two-thirds of the frame. The text "If this is" is overlaid in the top right corner.

***"If this is***

**We need your financial  
support to help Esprit achieve  
all of its goals.**



# *new music, bring it on."*

— Globe & Mail



Photo by Malcolm Cook

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## Box Office Hours:

Monday – Friday	10am-6pm
Saturday	12pm-6pm
Sunday/Holidays	3 hours prior to performance



# Subscription Prices

(Prices included all taxes and RCM box office fees)

	A	B	C
Adult Regular	\$195	\$160	\$130
Senior 65+	\$175	\$145	\$130
Under 30	\$105	\$90	\$70

- A** Parterre AB 1-12
- B** Parterre AB 13-16 / Orchestra Level E-Q
- C** Orchestra Level C, D, R, S

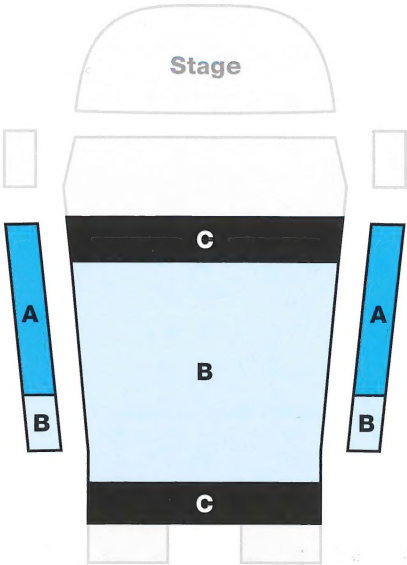


Photo by Bo Huang

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